

**What is Claimed:**

1. A system to infer XML schema definitions comprising:  
a XML document, the XML document having attribute and type information; and  
an XSD inference engine, the XSD inference engine accepting the XML document as input to process the XML document to infer an XML schema definition.
2. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the XSD inference engine comprises a computing application capable of processing XML documents.
3. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the XSD inference engine comprises at least one inference algorithm operating within the constraints of the XML Schema Definition Language.
4. The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the XSD inference engine is adaptable and customizable.
5. The system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a second XML document, the second XML document acting as input to the XSD inference engine along with the inferred XML Schema Definition to create a refined XML Schema Definition.
6. The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the refined XML Schema Definition acts as input to the XSD Inference Engine along with a third XML document to produce a second refined XML Schema Definition.
7. A method to infer XML Schema Definitions comprising:  
receiving an XML document as input, the XML document having some attribute and/or type information;  
determining the attribute and/or type information present in the XML document; and  
inferring a schema definition using the determined attribute and/or type information.

8. The method as recited in claim 7, further comprising making existing attributes optional if it is determined that an attribute does not exist in the XML document.
9. The method as recited in claim 8, further comprising determining the content model.
10. The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising determining if a new schema is to be inferred.
11. The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising setting the attribute to optional for existing content.
12. The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising determining if there is white space in the XML document.
13. The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising setting the date and line number to strings in the event that there exists white space in the XML document.
14. The method as recited in claim 12 further comprising determining if a schema definition already exists for the XML document.
15. The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising refining the type or inferring the type.
16. The method as recited in claim 15, further comprising creating a complex type.
17. The method as recited in claim 16, further comprising adding attributes.
18. The method as recited in 17, further comprising adding a type.

19. A computer readable medium having computer readable instructions to instruct a computer to perform the method as recited in claim 7.
20. A computer readable medium having computer readable instructions to instruct a computer to perform the method as recited in claim 19.
21. A computer readable medium having computer readable instructions to instruct a computer to generate an XML schema comprising:  
an inference algorithm, the inference algorithm operating on XML data to identify data types and attributes and inferring XML schemas using such type and attribute information in conjunction with XSD language parameters and constraints.
22. The computer readable medium as recited in claim 23, wherein the inference algorithm is part of a computing application for use in XML data processing.